

As an American citizen living abroad, I have been following the news coverage about Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election. I am appalled! It looks like a case of the problems resulting from the media consolidation that has occurred over the last ten years.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge. The company is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large and extremely wealthy and powerful companies like Sinclair control the airwaves, they are endangering our democracy. More and more Americans are subjected to something produced at "News Central" far away. I have watched my home city of Concord, New Hampshire lose its best locally produced news radio station, and it sickens me to have our information controlled by news manipulators three-quarters of the way across the country. It's important that we see and hear from real people from our own communities, and get more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's arrogant actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.